



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Burundi: OAU Renews Observer Mission Mandate for 3 Months

AB1504184496 Paris AFP in French
1558 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 15 Apr (AFP) — The OAU conflict prevention mechanism's central body has renewed the mandate of its Observer Mission in Burundi, OMIB, with effect from 23 April, the OAU announced today. In a communique issued at the end of its 20th regular session at the ambassadorial level, the body points out that this mandate is renewed for a period of three months, from 23 April to 23 July, in spite of scarcity of funds.

The OAU, "conscious of its responsibility toward the people of Burundi and of the need to pursue ongoing efforts, especially those of former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, has decided to renew OMIB's mandate for this period," the communique states. Furthermore, the body expresses its great concern over the deteriorating situation in Burundi. It calls on the Burundian Government and the protagonists to work with those seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict. It also calls on OAU member states and the international community to bring financial support for OMIB operations.

For several weeks now, Burundi has been experiencing increased violence which has caused hundreds of deaths and forced nearly 100,000 persons to flee since mid-February, according to humanitarian agencies on the spot.

Radio Burundi today reported the death of more than 50 persons, mostly Tutsis in several attacks mounted by rebel Hutus in the southern and central part of the country last week.

Burundi: Commander of Gitenga Military Barracks Reportedly Killed

EA1504195896 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports from Gitenga [central Burundi] say the commander of the Gitenga military barracks, Lieutenant General Francois Siritano [phonetic], has been killed.

According to military sources, Lieutenant Colonel [rank as heard] Siritano was ambushed yesterday by an armed group at Bukirasazi, central province of Gitega. Two other soldiers were wounded in the attack and several assailants were killed in clashes with security forces.

The incident followed a series of massacres of innocent people in the communes of Buraza and Rutana [all in

southern Burundi] in which more than 40 people were killed.

Burundi: Correspondent Details Recent Hutu Attacks on Civilians

AB1504190196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 15 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Burundi's Hutu rebel groups have stepped up their hit-and-run raids in the central region of Gitega in the last few weeks. About 50 people are reported to have been killed in attacks last Thursday [11 April] and Friday. Burundi's Tutsi-dominated Army blames (Rumon Lenebia Ngoma)'s rebel Front for the Defense of Democracy [FDD]. The most recent incident in Gitega happened this weekend, and journalist Christian Jennings has just been to the area. On the line to Bujumbura, William Wallis asked him what the situation was:

[Begin recording] [Jennings] As we understand, there were a number of Hutu rebel attacks on military and civilians positions in and around the commune of Bukirasazi, which is about 20 km from Gitega, the second largest city in Burundi.

[Wallis] Were you about to get an idea of how many people were killed in this fighting?

[Jennings] It was not possible to get an idea of the number of people killed in the fighting from the hospital which I visited in Gitega because a lot of the corpses of the people who were killed would have been buried on the spot. I did, however, talk to some of the wounded who had already been brought in to Gitega hospital.

[Wallis] Were they mostly Tutsis or were they Hutus?

[Jennings] They were a mixture of both Hutus and Tutsis — both the victims I spoke to and the doctor at the hospital and military survivors of the action [words indistinct] said that the Hutu rebels were now making no discrimination in-between Hutus and Tutsis when they attack. They are often attacking military positions simultaneously as attacking civilians.

[Wallis] So what sort of stories do the victims have to tell?

[Jennings] There was a 17-year-old girl and a six-year-old boy, both of them Hutus, who were attacked around the small town of Kishubi, along with the rest of their family of four other people. The girl and the boy were made to lie on the floor by the Hutu rebels. They protested that they were Hutus and that they had no argument with the Hutu rebels, and indeed

suggested that they might even try to point out military positions. The Hutu rebels didn't take any notice of this whatsoever. The children, the boy and the girl, were made to lie down on the floor, and were then subsequently shot.

The six-year-old boy who I interviewed today, I sat on the side of his bed, had taken a Kalachnikov round, through the snipe [as heard] of the head, miraculously he was still alive.

[Wallis] Did the military get fairly badly beaten in this fighting?

[Jennings] I spoke to a private soldier, who had been shot in the shoulder, who had been next to the battalion commander from the para-commando battalion taken to Gitega from Bujumbura to reinforce it recently, who was killed yesterday. He himself said that they were heavily attacked, and that they were, according to him, outnumbered.

[Wallis] Now, the region around Gitega has been the scene of much of the recent fighting. How did you find the morale of the population there, and of the military?

[Jennings] The population is very on edge. The town is very very nervous indeed. There are tanks around the edges of the town almost every night.

[Wallis] Did you get the impression that the military has any control over what is going on in this region now?

[Jennings] They have a certain amount of control because they are very numerous, they have got reinforcements from Bujumbura, but they are unfortunately fighting a guerrilla war. It is impossible for them to predict where the enemy will strike next. [end recording]

Burundi: Government To Purchase New Arms To Combat Hutu Rebels

BR1504145696 Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD in Dutch 15 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Rik De Gendt: "Burundi Opts For Tough Action Against Hutu Rebels"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — The Burundian Government has announced tougher measures against the Hutu rebels, whom it considers to be responsible for the disorders and killings which ravaged the southern part of the country in recent weeks. The decision is in flat contradiction with the reconciliation proposals formulated by former and present Tanzanian Presidents Julius Nyerere and Benjamin Mpaka, and by European Envoy Aldo Ajello.

On Wednesday [10 April] Nyerere made his fourth trip to Burundi in his capacity as mediator on behalf

of the United Nations, of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and of the talks initiated by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter late last year. The Belgian State Secretariat for Development Cooperation is financing a substantial part of Nyerere's mission.

In a speech Nyerere made before the Burundian Parliament on Friday he said that it is the MPs' "holy duty to pay more attention to those who placed their confidence in you, but now feel totally abandoned by you." He seemed to have doubts about their political will to reach a solution.

Last weekend in Dar es Salaam, Tanzanian President Mpaka and European Envoy Ajello made a joint appeal to the Burundian Government to "associate all parties with the peace talks."

The government in Bujumbura — a fragile coalition of FRODEBU (Front for Democracy in Burundi) and UPRONA (Union for National Progress) — would not hear of it. It announced it would step up its tough battle against the Hutu rebels. To that effect it wants to provide the security forces with more equipment. The population should pay for the purchase of new weapons through voluntary gifts or compulsory taxes.

According to Foreign Minister Venerand Bakevyumusaya, the government has no other alternative. He admitted to reporters that the supporters of former Minister Leonard Niyangoma's FDD (Forces for the Defense of Democracy) and of the Front for National Liberation are winning ground, and are now also operating in the southern part of the country.

Mediator Nyerere, for his part, continues to believe in his reconciliation mission. He invited the leaders of the coalition parties, Jean Minani of the FRODEBU and Charles Mukasi of the UPRONA, to a meeting in the Tanzanian city of Mwanza.

Cameroon

Cameroon: Government Bans Media From Mentioning Protest Calls

LD1304224196 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Cameroon, the government has just banned the press from making any mention of calls [for civil disobedience] made by the opposition. In a communique broadcast on national radio today, the Yaounde authorities have banned the public media among others from making any references to calls for civil disobedience, ghost town operations, and other illegal calls — I quote. [no beginning of quote heard]

This ban is the government's first reaction to the call made a little over a month ago by the main opposition party, the SDF [Social Democratic Front], a call inviting its supporters to civil disobedience and the organization of general strikes from 6 May onwards.

Chad

Chad: Appeal Court Announces Final Results of 31 Mar Referendum

AB1404152296 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1215 GMT 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The official final results of the 31 March referendum have been announced by the president of the Ndjamenan Appeal Court. The yes vote by President Idriss Deby's supporters won with 63.50 percent of the votes as against 36.50 percent. Kore Lambor reports from Ndjamenan:

[Begin Lambor recording] It was at the 15 January Palace, before an audience of members of government, Higher Transitional Council, political parties, and the diplomatic corps accredited to Chad that Adam Issackar, the Ndjamenan Appeal Court president announced the final results of the 31 March referendum, saying that 63.50 percent of voters voted yes while 36.50 percent voted no. The provisional results given by the Independent National Electoral Commission showed 61.46 percent yes votes as against 31.54 percent no votes.

Another remark — and not the least — votes by Chadians living in Libya, Sudan, Niger, Nigeria, and Iraq were not taken into account because the reports and messages accompanying these results were not signed. [end recording]

Chad: Deby Holds News Conference on Referendum, Condemns Seditious

AB1504145296 *Ndjamenan Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French* 1930 GMT 14 Apr 96

[Poor reception precludes fuller processing]

[FBIS Summary] Ndjamenan Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French on 14 April at 1930 carries a recorded news conference held by President Idriss Deby in Ndjamenan on 14 April on the results of the 31 March referendum on the Constitution. The news conference was attended by local and foreign correspondents.

In a six-minute introductory statement, President Deby thanks all the political parties, the Independent National Electoral Commission, institutions, friendly countries, international organizations, and the media which contributed to the success of the referendum. He commends Chadians for showing maturity and a high sense of re-

sponsibility. He says some parties used the referendum campaign to settle political scores instead of explaining the real issues imbedded in the Constitution to the people. Some went as far as saying that "this Constitution was made-to-measure to suit Idriss Deby." He says it is inadmissible that some political and religious figures used the referendum to foment division in the country. He issues a warning to all "those who are thus jeopardizing national unity through seditious behavior." He mentions that this warning is particularly meant for some religious leaders — Christian and Muslims alike — and some political leaders who base their arguments on religious and ethnic considerations which have nothing to do with the Constitution. "I respect the choice of all our compatriots who voted no in the referendum."

He further discloses that the government's concern is for Chadians to live as free people under the Constitution. The Constitution will enable the country to embark on the democratic process. He has high hopes for the implementation of the Constitution and the holding of elections. He hopes everyone will show maturity and face up to this new challenge.

Answering questions from correspondents, he says it is only a small group of people who are trying to create the north-south divide in the country. He chides the media and the country's intellectuals for not doing enough to promote the Constitution. Asked whether the vote was not a political censure against the ruling Patriotic Salvation Movement and the government, he replies: "The vote is not a censure against Deby, the running of the country, or any party." The provisions of the Constitution should have been better explained to the people since it is the first Constitution since independence.

Regarding the next elections, the government pledges to ensure the safety of all citizens and the protection of all election candidates throughout the country. The government will not allow the upcoming elections to be jeopardized by any religious group or individuals be they Chadians or foreigners. The Constitution will be upheld. He urges Chadians: "Let us go into the next elections with serenity." Furthermore, he urges nongovernmental organizations and religious groups in the country to refrain from interfering in the country's affairs in any way. Their role in the country, he says, is not a political one.

Rwanda

Rwanda: Paul Kagame on Security Situation, Foreign Relations

BR1504145096 Brussels LE SOIR in French
15 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Paul Kagame, Rwandan vice prime minister and defense minister, by Colette Braeckman in Kigali; date not given: "Paul Kagame on Security in the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Braeckman] What is the situation at the Zairian border, where the refugees are flocking?

[Kagame] There is certainly a security problem in this region, and I am amazed at the silence of the international community on this subject, which resembles a form of conspiracy, whereas everyone is aware of it, all the more so because the problems in the Masisi started to arise early last year. Everyone was there to see that the situation was deteriorating in the Masisi: the NGOs, the international observers, but no one said anything, and nor did the press....

[Braeckman] Do you believe that at the time of the exodus of the refugees, in the summer of 1994, there was already a plan to fall back on the Masisi?

[Kagame] Certainly: The plan existed to establish these people in Rutshuru, on the island of Idjui, and in the Masisi. The first plan was to establish the militiamen and soldiers from the RAF [Rwandan Armed Forces] in the Turquoise zone, created by the French. To start with this zone was supposed to cover three prefectures, Kibuye, Gikongoro, and Cyangugu, which represented all of the west of the country, where the Hutus would have been able to concentrate, with the hard core. Which would have meant a sort of partition of the country. But since we advanced more rapidly than foreseen, this plan did not succeed, and the solution was found of falling back on Zaire, where the administration is very weak. I believe that Zairian authorities approved this plan, but I do not know which authorities, at which level. Judge for yourself: The 900 refugees who have just arrived said that they had been robbed and driven away in the presence of the governor of Northern Kivu, who gave them one hour to be on Rwandan territory....

[Braeckman] A week ago you were very critical of the foreign press, and the French press in particular. What do you reproach it of?

[Kagame] I believe that a certain press is running a real campaign against us: During our week of mourning, RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONALE ran a series of very critical programs about Rwanda, and I really

do believe that it reflects the policy of the French Government toward us.

[Braeckman] How do you respond to the accusations of violations of human rights and insecurity?

[Kagame] I believe that there are more human rights violations in some European countries than in Rwanda. As for security, I am confident. There are still incidents here and there, but overall I believe that people are satisfied, the situation is improving progressively.

[Braeckman] Police are deployed in the villages; Does that mean that the Army will return to its barracks?

[Kagame] There will be a gradual process: If we have enough gendarmes and police in the countryside, then we will be able to reduce the number of soldiers on the ground. However, do not think that the latter are carrying out administrative tasks, they are there to carry out operations against infiltrators, to defend the country. If we had a gendarmerie of 10,000-15,000 men, correctly equipped and trained, it could gradually replace the Army, deal with the population, and carry out defense tasks. At present we have 4,000 gendarmes but they are not all trained yet.

[Braeckman] How many former soldiers have been reintegrated into the Army?

[Kagame] Around 3,500, and only a small part of them are in Gako camp, the others have taken up their positions. Soldiers are continuing to join us, but slowly and in small numbers. Moreover I believe that we are going set a deadline for their return, beyond which those outside the country will still be able to return to the country, but as straightforward citizens. We cannot continue to wait indefinitely.

[Braeckman] What is the position regarding discipline in the Army, sanctions applied to certain soldiers?

[Kagame] We created a military police to deal more seriously with this problem of discipline. Not that the situation is out of our control, but it is a question of a long-standing project, which consists of creating a police force which falls under the Defense Ministry.

Desertions Toward Burundi

[Braeckman] Is it correct that there have been desertions from the Army, that soldiers are leaving for Burundi because they are better paid there?

[Kagame] It is not a new problem: A number of soldiers left for Burundi in 1995, above all because they had committed crimes in Rwanda, they had killed and robbed. They wanted to escape the punishment which awaited them here, and because of the weakness of the

regime in Burundi, they regarded themselves as being in a safe place there. They were given a good reception in Burundi, where they were regarded as good soldiers and not as criminals. They took jobs as the bodyguards of some businessmen, and were enrolled in paramilitary militias.

I warned the Burundian authorities, in a very serious way, telling them that these criminals would cause them even more problems. I even threatened to close the border, I asked Burundi to send us back these deserters, so that we can punish them. In any case we must avoid that if these people commit crimes, it can be said that it was Rwanda or the RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] which has sent them there.... The Burundians must be able to neutralize these people. I have warned everyone over there, right through to the president of the republic.

[Braeckman] Are all the men you see in uniform in Rwanda soldiers?

[Kagame] It sometimes happens that infiltrators wear RPA [Rwandan Patriotic Army] uniforms when they commit crimes. That is why the military police is setting up roadblocks and asking documents of all those who wear military attire or carry arms.

[Braeckman] The Army is numerous, when will you demobilize it?

[Kagame] We are thinking about it, but in stages: We have already demobilized the "kadogos", the soldier children, the disabled, and the ill. However, we must ensure that these people are integrated in the rest of society, and we have asked donors to support this type of program.

The Families of the 10 Paratroopers Invited to Rwanda

[Braeckman] How are relations with Belgium?

[Kagame] From the point of view of cooperation they are very good. But we would like Colonel Bagosora to be extradited to Rwanda and not to Belgium. Moreover the families of the 10 Belgian UN soldiers will come to Rwanda, they will be very well received, we will show them everything they want to see, they will see that Rwanda is a friend. Sometimes I am surprised by the attitude of some people in Belgium: They know perfectly well who killed your soldiers, who committed crimes against humanity, and despite that it is us who are accused....

[Braeckman] On the international level Rwanda seems isolated....

[Kagame] No, we have many friends. But the problem is that we want to be independent, to ask our partners for what we need and not what they want to give us. We do not want others to decide in our place what must be done here, what is good for us.... We want outside interventions to take their place within the government's programs, and as a result we are accused of being difficult, if not arrogant.

[Braeckman] What is the situation with the return of the refugees?

[Kagame] We are accused of not doing everything for them to return, whereas the door is open. In fact the responsibility is shared by three parties: Our government, the international community, but also the refugees themselves, who must make their decisions. The question is extremely politicized.... As for the RDR [Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda], which has held news conferences in Nairobi, I have advised its representatives to return, to do politics inside the country and not abroad, subject to the condition they do not divide the people....

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FBIS-AFR-96-074

16 April 1996

South Africa: Ramaphosa Discusses Reasons for Leaving Parliament

MB1504175196 Johannesburg SOWETAN (Business section) in English 15 Apr 96 pp 1, 11

[Interview with South African Constitutional Assembly Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa by Mzimkulu Malunga, Aggrey Klaaste, and Mike Siluma; place and date not given; questions published in bold]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **On why he decided to leave politics to join a black company which is a key player in the economy:**

Given our country's transformation challenge to have an economy that will have sustainable growth, I see joining Nail [New Africa Investment Ltd.] as a move to another terrain of struggle. After the success of the political struggle, I see this as an attempt to play a role in that area of struggle for the benefit of our people and our country.

The economy is one of the spheres where the legacy of apartheid remains acute. We are likely to see more key black political leaders entering the economy. This is a national mission and not so much a question of a few people enriching themselves, although I suppose that happens.

But we need to be creative and look at how to give meaning to the whole concept of black empowerment. Is it the enrichment of a few, or is it a situation where we create vehicles that can help empower our people, opening up opportunities for our people and for small business?

The orientation of white business, which has been very successful, has always been: "We are going to assist to empower our own". I think it is about time that among black people we begin to have that kind of approach.

On how he thinks his joining Nail will be seen by the financial markets:

Rather than being seen as an event that will dampen the markets, I think it should be viewed as an affirmation of what we want to achieve as a movement, as a people and as a country. In our political circles, the business sphere was always looked down upon. We have done this to our own detriment and to the detriment of the country.

I think getting into corporate Africa, being part of Nail and working together with Dr (Nthato) Motlana, Dikgang Moseneke, Enos Mabuza and Jonty Sandler is going to mean that you have got a concentration of rather able people who can attract a number of business opportunities. They will be able to add value to whatever operations or enterprises they get involved in.

One of my key interests is the area of small black business. I would like to see what we can do, what the economy can do, what Government can do to assist and to ensure that small black business does come into the mainstream of the economy. As it is now it is marginalised. But the people out there are looking for opportunities and wish to be part of this economic growth they are seeing and hearing about. The skills I acquired in organising unions, particularly the National Union of Mineworkers, can also be utilised in this new terrain.

On whether some might see his move as a desertion of his old constituencies, such as the trade unions:

I have briefed comrades in the National Union of Mineworkers. With their involvement in the Johnnic bid they are rather excited that I could be part of that bid. Given the fact that unions are also getting heavily involved in business and are in many ways becoming employers, the ideological divide (of capitalism versus socialism) which existed in the past is no longer the main issue.

On the view that he is leaving formal politics because he is out of the race to succeed President Mandela:

I think presidents are made of sterner stuff. Being part of the ANC collective we are not accustomed to saying "this is my ambition". It is the ANC that finally decides what we should be and where we should go. It is the leadership of the ANC that has taken the decision that I should move in this direction. (The move into business) is not an individual, unilateral decision. It is one that is backed up by the wisdom of the senior leadership of the movement. My deployment demonstrates how seriously the ANC is approaching the economy.

Saki Macozoma has been deployed in Transnet, which is a parastatal but a key player in the economy. I am now being deployed in the private sector as part of Nail. The ANC is beginning to focus on the economy as a key arena of struggle, with the focus on completely transforming South African society.

Playing a role in the economy and being in business is not completely separate from being part of the political process unfolding in the country.

On whether his move means that the ANC is taking over Nail:

A business corporation like Nail does not need to have a political name tag. The important thing is that it should be a serious, efficiently run business that is going to play a key role in the economy.

It is just by sheer coincidence that I am ANC and Dr Motlana, the chairman, is known to be ANC.

On whether he will leave the ANC completely:

I see myself continuing to play a role in the organisation. At the end of the constitution-making process I will be resigning my seat as an MP. Other positions, such as the secretary generalship, will remain unchanged.

When we have finished the constitution and it is certified, which will be in June, I expect that my role in the Constitutional Assembly will also come to an end. If it is not certified I will, of course, continue to play a role to make sure that we do adopt a new Constitution.

On his involvement in the Johnnic bid:

I have dealt with people who have been directory involved with the bid. I have been consulted and briefed on an on-going basis, initially by the unions. Later I started interacting on this issue with black business, particularly with Nail.

What role I will play largely depends on what is decided by the parties that are involved in the bid, such as Nail, the National Empowerment Consortium [NEC] and others.

I expect that this development will facilitate a closer working together between the NEC and Nail, which all parties involved would like to see happening.

Johnnic is important because it is one of the possible key vehicles of black economic empowerment. It is important that blacks should position themselves to bid for and have a stake in an entity like Johnnic. It is far too important an opportunity to be ignored.

I am one of those who at an early stage raised my concern about diamonds and platinum being left out of the deal. I have not been close enough to the discussions to be able to form a firm view. But it is still an important enough deal to enable black business to make its mark in the mainstream of the economy. I see it as a platform for other greater things that can be done by black business.

The good thing about it — the beauty of it — is that you have unions coming together with black business to play an important role.

On the role of unions in the economy:

Unions want to have a stake in the economy of the country, too, and I welcome that.

This is something that big business should welcome. The unions are already demonstrating a good acumen for business. I have been, for instance, in the NUM conference and seen how workers have been analysing the reports of NUM investments with a great deal of pride, saying: "We own this. This is ours." Giving workers a stake is the way to go in terms of making sure more people have a stake in the economy.

Unions want to play more of a meaningful role. They also have opinions about the growth of the economy and adding value to business enterprises. I see this as the beginning of a shift in the way the economy is run. It should no longer be the prerogative of white business to play a key role in the economy.

The transition to democracy has been a miracle. The adoption of the new Constitution will entrench this. But that political democracy has to be sustained and nurtured by an economy that is growing, from which black people are not alienated and are playing a role. Unless that happens the political stability we have achieved could be like something that is built on sand.

My orientation says whatever the economy does should be for the good of our country as a whole. We need to move to a stage where the economy has a human face, an economy that cares about people.

On unbundling and competition:

Competition is the hallmark of any democratic dispensation. Where I come from we believe that our relations with unions must be consistent with good democratic principles.

I believe competition is healthy. But where you are going to grow so big that you crush others who want to start playing a role in an area of business activity is unhealthy. Part of our problem in this country is that many of our companies have not been sharpened by the competitive spirit found in other countries. Even where pyramids are established they must never be allowed to stifle competition.

On whether black empowerment has meant the enrichment of only a few:

My key objective in getting involved in Nail is to ensure that economic empowerment is seen to be real, and to be to the benefit of the disadvantaged. We would need to hold thorough going discussion with the various stakeholders such as unions and politicians to define what black empowerment is all about. I see the entry of unions into the economy as fulfilling an aspect of economic empowerment for workers.

We need to be creative. The challenge of empowerment faces not only people like myself but the union movement and everybody else, including the Government.

Unless we enrich the debate we will for ever be clutching at straws, using labels to paint a number of people, which is not what we want to do.

The Afrikaners took a conscious decision that they were going to deploy a number of people in the economy through the Broederbond in a very big way.

Look where they are today. We could say we are late starters but I bet we will get there.

South Africa: Mandela Laments 'Disunity' in Black Business

MB1504124396 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 15 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by NEW NATION editor Gabu Tugwana]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela yesterday lamented the state of chaos and disunity in black business.

In an exclusive interview with SOWETAN in Cape Town at the weekend, President Mandela also appealed to black business to unite and work towards achieving the ideal of black empowerment. This would create more jobs and help to better the lives of the majority.

He explained that one of the key reasons for releasing Mr Cyril Ramaphosa to join the private sector was to help strengthen those working for black economic empowerment.

Often when the President tried to get a joint delegation of Nafcoc [National African Federation of Chambers of Commerce] and Fabcos [Federation of African Business and Consumer Services] to accompany him overseas, the two organisations could not even agree on candidates. He said in the past he had stressed the point about the crippling effects of disunity in black business circles.

Mandela said the gap between white and black business had to be closed. "White business, by definition, is big business ... while blacks represent the small to medium size sector.

"Ninety percent of the country's means of production are in the hands of six conglomerates."

And black business needed education, skills, training and resources to close the gap.

In his presentations to business abroad, Mandela said he had repeatedly appealed to investors to enter into joint ventures with black business.

But on his return home, white business opposed this position, saying their organisation had the infrastructure to deal with overseas investors. They also suggested that black business should work through them since blacks were still being promoted to positions of authority.

"But I refused to accept this and said they could not promote a few individuals because I did not know what happens inside each company. I said I was told they had not assigned any responsibility to the people they promoted."

Mandela rejected criticism from black business that the Government was slow to effect black economic empowerment.

He said critics should be reminded that after his government took office, it found that the country had borrowed \$250 billion (about R1,000 billion [rands]) from the international community. This debt was serviced at \$34 billion (about R136 billion) a year. Between 1985 and the first half of 1994, he said there was a flight of \$51.7 billion (about R207 billion) investment capital. Since the new government took office, \$30 billion (R120 billion) had returned to the country.

"There has also been a reduction in individual and company insolvency; we have also reduced inflation from 13 to six percent; transformed the negative growth which we had for two decades into a positive three percent...although we had hoped to achieve six percent in order to create more jobs," added Mandela.

He said the Government was still on track as far as its promises were concerned. In the runup to elections, he said, he had indicated it would not be easy to achieve a better life for everyone. He had indicated that it would take up to five years.

South Africa: Minister Manuel, Liebenberg To Tour Financial Markets

MB1504153796 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and his predecessor Chris Liebenberg will leave on a tour of the financial capitals of the world tomorrow.

Among other matters, Mr. Liebenberg is also expected to introduce Mr. Manuel to some of the key players in international finance in London, Zurich, Frankfurt and New York. They will be accompanied by Finance Deputy Director General Maria Ramos. Finance Ministry spokesperson Jennifer Wilson said the tour was not aimed at calming jittery markets.

Earlier today the rand sank further to a fresh record low of four rands 22.5 cents to the dollar. This is almost five cents lower than Friday's levels. Dealers said the sentiment was negative because of uncertainty next month in KwaZulu/Natal, and more dollar buying from European dealers. The dollar was at the highest level against the German mark in more than seven months, adding to the pressure on the rand.

South Africa: Naidoo Says Donor Funds Must 'Fit' Into RDP Programs

MB1504204796 Johannesburg SABC 1 Television Network in English 2000 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reconstruction and Development Program [RDP] is into a new and more effective phase. Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Jay Naidoo said both government and foreign funding would only be used where they can address RDP needs in a very specific manner.

[Begin Naidoo recording] What we are now asking our partners in the international community is to take the money that they are giving to us in grant aid and integrate it into our priorities. So taking, if they want to invest in health care, to match their funds with our funds so that we don't build clinics that we've got no money to pay the staff or pay for medicines. This is a cooperation between us and international donors which is unique in the world, that says that international money must now fit into the program determined by South Africans. [end recording]

South Africa: Tutu Denies Truth Commission Facing 'Credibility Crisis'

MB1104152396 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1409 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] EAST LONDON April 11 SAPA — A stern Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Thursday played down fears the Truth and Reconciliation Commission faced a credibility crisis on the eve of its first public hearings.

In his strongest reaction yet to threatened court action against the commission by the families of four slain anti-apartheid activists, Tutu said most South Africans did not share their views. Tutu is chairman of the commission, which starts hearing testimony on murder, torture and disappearances by 28 alleged victims of apartheid in East London on Monday [15 April].

The families of slain activists Steve Biko, Griffiths Mxenge, Dr Fabian Ribeiro and his wife Florence have asked the Constitutional Court to declare unconstitutional aspects of legislation which governs the commission. They argue that amnesty for human rights offenders denies victims the right to seek redress, and have threatened to apply for an urgent interdict to postpone hearings until after the Constitutional Court's ruling.

Tutu told a media briefing on Thursday he was "annoyed and very hurt" by the families' action. "I hope they get their come-uppance," he said. "I am annoyed and very hurt for the many people I know who do want to tell their stories."

The commission's Eastern Cape office had received more than 250 statements from victims wanting to testify at next week's hearings. Political parties and churches had also expressed support for the commission, Tutu said. The commission belonged to the nation and was a product of the negotiated interim constitution. Legislation enabling the commission's establishment had been passed by a democratically-elected Parliament.

Tutu said he was tired of trying to justify the commission to critics. "I would rather have been in Atlanta enjoying my retirement," he said, adding that many commissioners had taken a drop in salary. "However, all of us believe in the commission. None of us have vested interests."

Tutu's deputy Dr Alex Boraine said the commission would do all in its power to ensure ordinary people were able to share with South Africans "some tough times in their lives". He said the commission was still "the best bet" for Ntsiki Biko, whose husband Steve died in police custody in 1977. "A long time has elapsed since the inquest. If Mrs Biko was seeking criminal justice why on earth has there been no case in court," Boraine said. "If there was new evidence that she could take to the attorney-general she would have done it," he said.

He said the commission, with its powers of search and seizure and a team of highly-trained investigators, was still in a position to assist her. "If she came to the commission tomorrow our reaction would be sympathetic and wide open... The door remains wide open."

South Africa: Tutu Calls Commission's 1st Hearing 'Good Day' for Nation

MB1504075696 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0739 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Report by Ross Colvin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] EAST LONDON April 15 SAPA — Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu was upbeat when he arrived at the East London City Hall on Monday for the start of the commission's historic first hearing.

"It is a good day for South Africa," Tutu told reporters outside the hall. "If we are going to have national unity and reconciliation these proceedings must be successful. I believe we are going to succeed. There are many praying for us."

Referring to threats of court action against the commission by families of slain anti-apartheid activists and some alleged perpetrators of abuses, Tutu said the proceedings would go on as scheduled unless a court said

otherwise. "There are many people who are eager to tell their stories," said Tutu.

Tutu is due to launch the four-day hearings at 10am by lighting a single candle in remembrance of people who died or disappeared during the struggle against apartheid. About 28 cases of torture, death in detention and shootings are due to be heard by Tutu and his fellow commissioners over the next four days.

South Africa: Tutu Addresses Opening of Truth Commission

AJ1504091796 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0815 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Address by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the opening of the commission's first session in East London City Hall — live; first sentence in Xhosa, second through fourth sentences in Afrikaans]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We welcome you warmly to the first session of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We welcome you warmly to this first of a series of public hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This is a hearing of the Committee on Human Rights Violations. The other type of hearing is that of the Amnesty Committee.

We welcome you all. We thank our Eastern Cape colleague, Commissioner Bongani Finca, and all his colleagues in this region, for all their very hard work, demonstrating that I head up a team of outstanding persons as commissioners and committee members, some of whom are here with me today. Our staff consists of dedicated and skilled persons.

We thank the premier of this province, the honorable Raymond Mhlaba and the people of his province for their welcome, and for his presence here today with Mrs. Mhlaba, as well as the speaker of the provincial legislature, Mr. Gugile and Mrs. Gugile. We thank the mayor, the councillors, and the people of East London for their welcome, and especially for making available these facilities here.

We want to say a big thank you to the police for providing security. As we can see, they are our police. We welcome all those who will be telling their stories, as well as their relatives and friends. We will want to hear their stories. That is the basic reason for these hearings, for the Human Rights Violations Committee to help the commission determine whether particular persons have suffered gross violations of their human rights, and for those persons then to be declared victims, who will thereafter be referred to the Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee of our commission, which

then must make appropriate recommendations to the president of our country for the nature and size of reparation to be given.

The committee will not be making immediate findings about whether people are victims who have suffered gross human rights violations. That is something that will happen only a while afterwards, because it may be necessary to verify testimony. We may have to alert people who have been named as alleged perpetrators, so that they are given an opportunity of making representations in writing, and possibly being asked to come to a future hearing.

Thank you, all of you here in South Africa and around the world, who have prayed, and are praying, for the commission and its work. We are charged to unearth the truth about our dark past, to lay the ghosts of that past, so that they will not return to haunt us, and that we will thereby contribute to the healing of a traumatized and wounded people — for all of us in South Africa are wounded people — and, in this manner, to promote national unity and reconciliation.

For Christians, it is a significant thing that the first hearings happen at Easter tide, when we commemorate the victory of life over death; of light over darkness; of goodness over evil; of justice over injustice; of truth over lies; of laughter, of joy, of peace, of compassion over their ghastly counterparts, in the glorious resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ.

We want to indicate that those who testify before this commission will enjoy the same privilege as would happen in a court of law for the testimony that they give, provided what they say is the truth as they understand it, and provided what they have done is done in good faith. We want to assure you that we do not want to turn the hearings into proceedings of a court of law, but the conduct of all of us here should be conducive to a dignified hearing, for we have come especially to hear harrowing stories from those who are going to witnesses, and out of respect for them, I hope that it will not be necessary for me to invoke the powers that have been given to me by the act, and that each of us here will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If people do here what would be construed in a court of law — if it happened there — as contempt of court, then they will be guilty of an offense. I would hope that it would not be necessary for us to go that direction.

South Africa: IFP Not To Participate in Truth Commission

MB1504092996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0917 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN April 15 SAPA — The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] would not take part in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is to hear evidence of more than 30 years of human rights abuses, party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Monday.

The commission began its first hearings in East London on Monday. In a statement in Durban, Buthelezi said after careful consideration the IFP had decided it was impossible for it to receive impartial treatment by the commission. "As a consequence, and regretfully, we have concluded that the IFP will play no role in the truth commission's hearings, questioning or deliberations.

"The IFP, however, recognises and supports the rights of individual party members to appear before the commission in their personal capacity."

Buthelezi said about 12,000 IFP members and about 430 of its leaders had been murdered in the past decade, therefore the IFP had "as much interest as any party in reaching the truth of South Africa's recent history".

"Our concern is not the truth emerging, but whether the whole truth will emerge."

Buthelezi said the IFP was the victim of a so-called "people's war" conducted by the former United Democratic Front [UDF], the African National Congress and its allies against the IFP and the people of KwaZulu-Natal in particular. "It is important that history records the pogrom against elected black leaders and councillors in KwaZulu-Natal and the campaign of assassination against traditional structures in this and other provinces, a campaign which continues today."

The IFP said it was important that evidence on the ANC's alleged detention, torture and murder of its own members in so-called detention centres be heard and the perpetrators be held accountable. "To these ends the IFP intends with immediate effect to compile and publish in the public arena a dossier detailing the ANC's war against the IFP and the people of KwaZulu-Natal and other provinces, as well as that party's gross violations of human rights carried out against its own members over a 12-year period." This information would be presented to the truth and reconciliation commission, the IFP said.

The IFP also questioned recent appointments to the commission. "We have noted that (commission chairman) Desmond Tutu is himself a former patron of the

ANC's internal front the UDF, and that the commission's chief of investigations, Lawandhle Magadhla, is the former head of the ANC's department of intelligence and security (Mbokodo) in KwaZulu-Natal.

"We have also noted that the commission's new national director of investigations, Glenn Goosen, is a long-time Nusas (National Union of SA [South Africa] Students), UDF and ANC activist," the IFP said. "In these circumstances ... the IFP has decided that it is impossible for us to receive impartial treatment before the commission.

"As a party we remain fully committed to the process of reconciliation in South Africa.

"We are saddened that a genuine attempt to foster a balanced understanding of our recent past has been missed, being usurped by a process of historical cleansing reminiscent of show trials of the Eastern bloc," the IFP said.

South Africa: Truth Commission Hearing Resumes After Bomb Threats

MB1504100496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1000 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] EAST LONDON April 15 SAPA — The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's first hearings resumed at 11.40am on Monday after a bomb scare caused a brief disruption.

"We could not take a risk," commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu said after police used sniffer dogs to search East London city hall. Tutu had earlier calmly evacuated the hall and was among the last to leave after receiving reports of bomb threats telephoned to police and a local newspaper. "I will not allow a disruption of this kind to happen again," Tutu said. "Police have ensured it will not happen again."

Sen Supt Rene Hackart said police had received a call at 10.25am from a man who said there was a bomb in the hall. A few minutes later the East London newspaper DAILY DISPATCH received a call from a man saying a bomb would go off in the hall at 11.15am. Hackart said police had swept the building and vehicles outside the hall before informing the commission of the bomb threat.

South Africa: Truth Commission Releases Names of First Witnesses

MB1504080496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0757 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] EAST LONDON April 15 SAPA — The Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Monday released the names of seven witnesses expected

to testify about death in police custody, killing by security forces and abductions and disappearances. The commission's historic first hearings are to start at about 10am in the East London City Hall.

Nohle Mohapi is expected to testify about the death in police custody of her husband, Mapetla. Elizabeth Hashe will testify about the alleged abduction and disappearance of Charles Siphon Hashe. Karl Andrew Webber will give evidence about an alleged attempt to murder him in a hand grenade attack that maimed him. Toni Lillian Mazwai will tell the commission about the alleged killing by security forces of her son Siphile Hamlet Mazwai.

Three other witnesses will give evidence about the alleged abduction and disappearance of family members. The witnesses are Ncediwe Euphemia Mfeti (Pindile Mfete), Nomali Rita Galela (Champion Galela) and Monica Godolozzi (Qaqawuli Gololozzi).

Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu was upbeat as he arrived at the City Hall on Monday. "If we are going to have national unity and reconciliation then this process must succeed," he told reporters. "We believe it is going to succeed," he said.

South Africa: Truth Commission 'Showing Signs of Cracking Up'

*MB1504124496 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
15 Apr 96 p 13*

[Report by political reporter Waghied Misbach]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hampered by a lack of staff, a non-existent national communications strategy, a Constitutional Court challenge and vehement opposition from a number of political parties, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [TRC] is showing signs of cracking up.

To be fair, the TRC has not had a great deal of time to get its act together. It has been little more than four months since the law was enacted which created the commission.

In that time, the TRC had to organise its structures in four regions, Gauteng KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Eastern Cape; recruit and train staff; ensure an adequate strategy to inform the public of its purpose; and deal with attacks from individuals and organisations about its credibility.

While recognising the tight time frame and the obvious commitment of the commissioners to make it work, the problems seem insurmountable at present.

But with only 18 months left for the TRC to complete its work, serious questions are being raised about whether it will be a worthwhile exercise.

Staffing has become a critical issue for the commission. In Eastern Cape, for instance, three statement-takers in the East London office are expected to deal with an average of 20 people a day. The statement-takers have simply not been able to take comprehensive accounts and will have to follow up on many victims.

A further three statement-takers are out in the field, covering a wide area including Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Cradock, Uitenhage, Queenstown and East London.

Although the Investigative Unit [IU] in East London is "up and running", it is doubtful whether it has the capacity to investigate all the cases that will come before the commission.

It is certainly not good enough, as Commissioner Dumisa Ntsebeza who heads the IU said recently, to simply provide a "window" on the cases of the past.

What is the point then, of having the commission in the first place, if it cannot adequately investigate every single case?

The staffing issue has also affected the commission's ability to provide a communications strategy to inform the public of its work.

The crucial position of Communications Director has yet to be filled. Archbishop Desmond Tutu's media spokesman, John Allen, has been used as a stopgap measure.

The TRC has an Outreach Programme which is run separately by coordinators in each region, and is used to inform people in rural areas. The TRC has also used other means to spread the word, including radio talks shows, organising meetings with non-governmental organisations and using the media in general to highlight its activities.

But the TRC has yet to reveal a nationally coordinated plan to reach a broader audience, either through posters or leaflets, or in the form of a more traditional advertising campaign in the print and electronic media.

The plan obviously depends on the appointment of a national coordinator. Allen said the TRC was "on the verge" of appointing someone a few weeks ago, but the person had withdrawn at the last moment. The post has now been readvertised.

Meanwhile, other pressures are lurking. The families of slain Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko, assassinated human rights lawyer Griffiths Mxenge and Dr

Fabian Ribeiro and his wife Florence, and the Azanian People's Organisation have launched a Constitutional Court Challenge to test the validity of the TRC.

The families argue that granting amnesty goes against their constitutional right to seek redress through the courts.

It is a highly emotional charge that simply cannot be dismissed as the rantings of those seeking revenge or as political manoeuvring from the extreme left.

There is a real desire for justice from these people which cannot be denied. Refusing to accept that the killers of their families will walk free is not unreasonable.

The TRC's response to this challenge is that the commission was borne from a political compromise and that victims will simply have to accept the reality of the situation.

Tutu's response has been largely predictable. He has talked about the political compromise but has also preached about the Bible asking Christians to forgive, to "turn the other cheek".

But it is problematic for a church leader of his stature to impose his personal Anglican beliefs on victims who come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide range of beliefs.

Former activist Marius Schoon, whose wife and daughter was killed by the security forces, said in a letter to a Sunday newspaper that Tutu "has no right" to impose his beliefs on "all of us".

He wrote: "As a religious leader, the Archbishop is completely entitled to make this type of appeal to his faithful. However, as chairperson of an important Government commission, it is important that the Christian ethic is not viewed as the law of the land. Not all of us are Christians."

Schoon said he was aware of "good political reasons" for the TRC's establishment: "These reasons do not include the imposition of Christian views on all of us. There is no feeling of forgiveness in my heart. There is no constitutional duty placed on me to forgive."

These are strong and persuasive arguments that have been articulated by a number of people disenchanted with the commission. It reveals that the basic premise of the commission is flawed.

There are no easy solutions. But there has to be some measure of justice for victims. Otherwise the current commission will amount to nothing more than a wasted exercise.

South Africa: IFP Said Recruiting Swazis, Mozambicans To Vote in KwaZulu

MB1204165296 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English 12 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Bhiekie Matsebula]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has once again been accused of recruiting Swaziland and Mozambican citizens to gain more votes in the May 29 local government elections.

Already, over 50,000 Swazis, mostly from Big Bend, Ndzevane, Lubulini and Mambane, were reportedly helped to get South African citizenship by senior IFP officials based in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

IFP spokesperson Ed Tillet declined to comment on the allegations yesterday. "I am too busy and I can't talk to you on this issue," he snapped.

This is the second time the IFP has been accused of assisting Swazis and Mozambicans living along the border with South Africa to get South African papers. Before the April 1994 multiparty elections, several chiefs in Swaziland complained about the IFP's recruitment drive, saying that the party was bent on "stealing" their subjects. Chiefs in other areas next to the northern KwaZulu/Natal, including Hluti and Phongola border, have made similar complaints.

IFP secretary general Ziba Jiyane has vehemently denied the allegations.

A 27-year-old Swazi, Gugu Matsenjwa of Mbabane, told NEW NATION this week that she was approached by a senior IFP official in Ngwavuma and told she could be helped to get a South African identity document if she joined and voted for the IFP during the local government elections. "I agreed because I desperately needed South African citizenship. I have had enough of being arrested for illegally staying in this country without proper documents," Matsenjwa said.

An official at the Ngwavuma magistrate court, Gabriel Mwandla, said over 50,000 people suspected of being Swazis and Mozambicans had got South African IDs since last year.

Mwandla said matters reached a head early this year when officials in the local Home Affairs office were instructed by unnamed IFP officials to register an undisclosed number of people from Big Bend in Swaziland and Mhlabyalingana in Mozambique.

"We knew that most of these people were Swazis and Mozambicans, but there was nothing we could do because it was not an order from above," Mwandla said. He said there were more applications to be processed.

South Africa: Mandela Forms Committee To Probe KwaZulu Voter Fraud*MB1604093896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0754 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 16 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela has postponed any decision on the fate of the May 29 KwaZulu/Natal local government polls pending an investigation into voter registration irregularities by a multi-party committee.

Speaking at Genadendal on Tuesday morning after breakfast talks with Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and local government MEC [member of the Executive Council] Peter Miller, the president said the committee would comprise a representative from each political party in Parliament.

Other committee members included local government elections task group co-chairmen Frederick van Zyl Slabbert and Khehla Shubane and Provincial Affairs Minister Chris Fisser and his deputy Valli Moosa.

Mandela said he had invited Buthelezi and Miller to the committee's first meeting on Friday where members would receive their instructions. Only once the committee had investigated the allegations "will I then act on that basis".

Buthelezi said the president's idea would bring down the high "temperature" in the province. Parties could only benefit from an investigation which would reveal the true facts.

However, he said if elections did not take place it was "possible" that the IFP would withdraw from the government of national unity.

Miller pledged to support Mandela and the committee 100 percent. "I am delighted that an impartial body will be charged with the responsibility to investigate whether the voter's roll is all right or not."

"The vast majority of irregularities have a satisfactory explanation," he said.

The ANC in KwaZulu/Natal have called for the postponement or staggering of the local polls claiming that violence in the province and voter registration irregularities were not conducive to free and fair elections.

After being briefed by Fisser and Moosa, Mandela said a postponement or staggering might have to be considered, but a decision would only be made after consultation with the affected parties.

South Africa: ANC Rejects Azapo Call for Boycott of Local Elections*MB1204150596 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1437 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 12 SAPA — The African National Congress on Friday rejected the Azanian People's Organisations' (Azapo) call for blacks to boycott the May 29 local government elections in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

The boycott call was misleading and destructive and showed that Azapo had not adjusted to the changes in South Africa since the national elections in 1994, the ANC said in a statement. "For Azapo to classify the South African population along the colour of their skins, simply shows their indifference to the tremendous democratic changes that our country has gone through in the past two years."

South Africa was close to finalising its new Constitution which was a milestone from the previous apartheid constitution. "To claim that nothing has changed and we are still governed by the white minority is insulting and undermining our people's intelligence."

South Africa would not be dissuaded from its democratic path, not even by armchair critics who had opted to stay on the margin of the process, the ANC said.

South Africa: 'Concerned Africanists' Reportedly To Reorganize PAC*MB1204164596 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 12-18 Apr 96 p 8*

[Report by Gaye Davis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A high-powered group of African intellectuals, professionals, trade unionists and corporate high-fliers are spearheading a bid to pull the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) back from the brink in order to provide South Africa with a left-of-centre party promoting Africanist ideals.

Known as the Concerned Africanists, the group spearheaded the notion of a historic national convention of Pan Africanists that the PAC planned to hold, possibly in September, ahead of fresh leadership elections.

Instead, the PAC went ahead with its conference, with predictably disastrous results. The revelations of financial maladministration and near bankruptcy, the walk-out by its youth wing and the futile denials of disunity by President Clarence Makwetu and his deputy, Dr Motsoko Phoko, served only to reinforce the impression of a party in its final death-throes.

But the decision to hold a convention of Africanists to map a new route for the PAC could offer salvation. Ironically, it was arrived at by way of a compromise, when a no-confidence motion in the PAC leadership tabled by the Pan Africanist Students' Organisation (PASO) was countered by one from the African Womens' Organisation.

Effectively, the PAC's leadership is now in a caretaker role: the convention will be organised by members of the Concerned Africanists group working with members of PAC structures. It will be followed by a PAC congress and fresh leadership elections — at present, only due in 1997.

While the Concerned Africanists group has the interests of the PAC at heart, its agenda for the convention extends much further than sorting out the many internal problems that have paralysed the party.

In its bid to forge a new unity among Africanists, the convention will also provide a platform for former members "to speak bitterness". Members of PAC breakaway groups, including the youth-led Revolutionary Watchdogs and the United Kingdom-based Sobukwe Forum, are expected to attend

A convention — with participation extending beyond PAC membership and structures and thus minimising the impact of internal factions — is seen by the Concerned Africanists as the only way out for the PAC.

The group includes card-carrying PAC members and disaffected former members of the party but is comprised largely of floating membership of people who see in Pan Africanism an alternative to communism, narrow nationalism or tribalism.

A 13-member core committee has been meeting regularly since September last year and devised the notion of the convention, spelt out in a discussion document submitted to the PAC's national executive committee and in the possession of the MAIL & GUARDIAN.

The document pulls few punches, describing the PAC as "politically sterile," with a "petrified leadership incapable of adapting to rapid political change" or even realising that the PAC had been "completely obliterated" from the political scene.

It criticises the PAC's inability to: Offer an alternative to the Reconstruction and Development Programme, instead of just warning people against being cheated a second time;

— Campaign for the release from prison of cadres of its military wing, APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army], who felt betrayed and abandoned.

— Make effective use of its parliamentary platform — leaving voters justified in feeling they'd wasted their ballots.

"At a time when future structures of political power and economic advancement are being mapped out through inter-party negotiations, the PAC is not yet equipped to play its meaningful role," the document says.

The document suggests a complete overhaul of the PAC, in terms of leadership, organisation, policies and strategies. The ANC was steadily "alienating wide support by roller coasting on the gravy train and failing to deliver" on its promises; the PAC "should exploit these deficiencies".

What was needed was a fresh date, a clear programme of action and a leader whose image could be packaged to "optimise" the party, its values and its policies.

South Africa: Government Structure in Final Constitution Outlined

MB1204165196 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 12-18 Apr 96 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Senate is due to be replaced by a National Council of Provinces (NCOP) with permanent and floating members — including the premiers of the nine regions who will participate for the first time in central government.

The final Constitution, currently in the last stages of negotiation in the Constitutional Assembly, leaves the National Assembly pretty much the same as at presents albeit minus 50 seats.

But the NCOP will have 54 permanent delegates, nominated by political parties in the provincial legislature, with six coming from each province; and 36 seats for floating delegates, four from each province.

These floating or special delegates will not always be the same people — depending on the matter or legislation under discussion different people with the right expertise will be mandated by the provincial legislature to appear in the NCOP to represent their province in debate and voting. The premiers will lead the floating delegations, bringing them centre stage in important national debates on provincial interests.

Another new body to appear on the scene is the Mediation Committee. This will combine, most probably, the nine best consensus-seeking politicians from the National Assembly and nine provincial representatives from the NCOP, one per province. This committee is an interesting development because it will be a small forum in which party-political disputes over legislation relating to the provinces will be hammered out.

If the NCOP opposes legislation relating to provincial powers or it wants to amend such draft legislation, the legislation must go for discussion to the Mediation Committee in order to find consensus.

The council can introduce a Bill on any matter relating to provincial powers as defined in Schedule Five — a schedule listing provincial powers — and if agreement is not found on the Bill within the NCOP or the Mediation Committee, the draft Bill will lapse.

The NCOP cannot block Bills which fall outside of Schedule Five, but it can force the National Assembly to reconsider legislation before finally adopting it, effectively delaying its adoption. The council will decide on Bills by majority vote.

The other significant but expected change from the current to the future government is that the majority party will not have to share Cabinet seats with other political parties. It is possible that a future president might of-

fer Cabinet seats to members of opposition parties, as a gesture of reconciliation and nation-building, but the final Constitution does not prescribe power-sharing in any way.

Finally, local government will be an interesting tier of government to watch because it is evolving at its own pace, and should gain more independence, status and power as 1999 draws nearer.

Among other things, the Constitution stipulates that laws should be made to create an umbrella body for all local government — at this stage called Organised Local Government.

This body will have a voice in the NCOP, giving national political debate a depth and range that it has never had before in South Africa. However, Organised Local Government will not have voting power.

Angola

Angola: Chief of Staff Discusses UNITA Troops' Integration Into FAA

MB1104114796 *Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese* 1200 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] General Joao de Matos, Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] General Staff chief, said conditions have been created to integrate troops from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] into FAA forces. The operation could begin at any time. Our colleague Pedro Manuel has more details:

Joao Baptista de Matos said conditions already have been created to begin integrating UNITA troops in confinement areas into FAA forces. He said all steps for finishing the formation of FAA forces have been defined and the operation can now begin even if UNITA does not have the required 20,000 men in confinement centers.

[Begin De Matos recording] We are ready at any time to begin integrating UNITA troops into FAA forces.

[Manuel] For example, there are now 18,000 UNITA troops confined. Can the integration process begin with this number?

[De Matos] Yes. [end recording]

Posts already have been defined for UNITA generals joining the FAA. According to Gen. Joao de Matos, UNITA has responded positively and final arrangements are being made.

[Begin De Matos recording] At this moment we need to define the D-day, the day when UNITA forces begin to join FAA forces, when UNITA generals return to FAA forces, and when the demobilization process will begin. That, in brief, is what we need to do. [end recording]

Angola: UNITA Says Over 23,000 Troops Confined in Poor Conditions

MB1604074496 *Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese* 0600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The movement of National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] troops to the Quibala confinement area in Cuanza Sul Province is progressing well despite the shortage of transportation and bad roads. A total of 886 troops had been confined at Quibala by yesterday, while hundreds of other troops and their families are expected to be confined there in the next few days. UNITA has so far confined over 23,000 troops. [passage omitted]

According to sources close to the UNITA General Staff, conditions in confinement areas are still bad. At Vila

Nova confinement area, for example, 23 children and two women have died because of poor conditions and lack of medical attention. A total of 60 women and 69 children suffering from different diseases have been admitted to the Vila Nova Hospital. [passage omitted]

Angola: UNITA Radio Commentary Stresses Need for General Amnesty

MB1504081796 *Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese* 0600 GMT 15 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] A war breaks out because of opposition between two factions. That applies to wars between countries or within a country. The latter are described as civil wars. There was a civil war in Angola after independence, although foreign intervention played an important part. One seeks to end a war when one realizes that weapons cannot settle disputes, regardless of the latter's nature. In the specific case of a civil war, several unavoidable issues are at stake when there is genuine political will to end the dispute. Such issues include the unambiguous declaration of a general amnesty to ensure coexistence and reconciliation among everyone in the same fatherland.

In the specific case of Angola, a general and complete amnesty, covering the two phases of the civil war, is the cornerstone and the guarantor of security for the lives of those who had no option but to take up arms to defend their rights, notably the right to life. There are various mechanisms through which an amnesty can be declared, but in the case of Angola only a general and complete amnesty declared by the president of the Republic can effectively provide adequate guarantees for pardoning, coexistence, and national reconciliation.

It is worrisome to note that in the wake of UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] full commitment to quartering almost 23,000 men, no concrete government political action has been taken — namely, a general and complete amnesty. Actually, such an amnesty is the key aspect of the Lusaka Protocol. It is legitimate to ask: What legal protection will be accorded to UNITA men who will form part of the reconciliation and national unity government? What protection will be given to officers regarded as deserters when they return to the Angolan Armed Forces, when we all know what military law states in such cases?

Action that has been taken in addition to the Lusaka Protocol, and which is seen as useful and complementary to national reconciliation, includes a review of the Constitution. The draft proposal for the revision of the Constitution as well as the revised document merely

give another mandate to the current political order and create vice presidencies with no executive powers. Why is a general and complete amnesty not introduced in the first place so we all can confidently move forward? The amnesty law approved by the Assembly of the Republic in November 1994, when the Lusaka Protocol was signed, has shortcomings and is riddled with inaccuracies and mischief that do not meet the goals of pardoning, national reconciliation, personal security, and freedom for all Angolans. Only a general and complete amnesty declared by the president of the Republic will guarantee genuine pardoning, and uphold not only what has been done to consolidate the Lusaka Protocol but also ensure the success of important tasks that lie ahead.

The international community should use its influence to encourage every action truly designed to establish peace and national reconciliation. That in itself will revamp the international community's credibility with Angolans and prevent it from losing face a second time.

Angola: RSA, German Farmers Want To Settle, Develop Agriculture

MB1504162996 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture in Angola was the topic of a debate held at the Radio Nacional this morning. Participants debated, among other issues, the distribution of land to South African and German farmers, lack of investment in the agricultural sector, lack of assistance to peasants, and timid moves in agricultural production.

Regarding the distribution of land to South African and German farmers, Agriculture Minister Isaac dos Anjos gave assurances that it would be made within the framework of the defined modalities.

[Begin Dos Anjos recording] German farmers, associated in cooperatives, as well as the Free Orange Farmers' Union, with President Mandela's support, have submitted requests to exploit land in Angola. South Africa, despite its major agricultural ability, only possesses 10 percent of the cultivable land. That is one reason why South Africans are looking for new land. [end recording]

Angola has immense potential in terms of cultivable land, but very little of it is exploited at the moment.

[Begin Dos Anjos recording] We have 9 million hectares of cultivable land. We only exploit 1.4 million hectares. We have enough water and cultivable land to develop agriculture. Thus, we are negotiating an eventual arrival of farmers to develop agriculture. [end recording]

Botswana

Botswana: Defence Force Chief Discusses Criticisms, Military Issues

MB1504124596 Gaborone THE MIDWEEK SUN in English 27 Mar 96 pp 1, 13

[Report by Dikarabo Ramadubu]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Commander of the Botswana Defence Force, (BDF) Lt. General Ian Khama says he finds it's just too surprising and disturbing that some members of Parliament are saying that the presence of his soldiers in the Public Gallery of the Parliament during debates is intimidating them.

In an exclusive interview with THE MIDWEEK SUN, Lt. General Khama said that "The BDF was brought into being by an Act of Parliament which is the same body they are accused of intimidating. I therefore challenge anyone, any Honourable Member of Parliament who thinks the presence of the BDF soldiers in the Public Gallery is intimidating, to come forward to me and state the reasons, or alternatively, he can simply declare it publicly, then we will respond accordingly".

He said that his men and officers have been going to Parliament for the past five years to hear for themselves what is happening. We take our soldiers to Parliament for two obvious reasons, the first being the budget discussion, especially when the BDF is being discussed so that they can hear it for themselves, and secondly we do it occasionally because it is good for soldiers, as citizens of the country, to be familiarised with parliamentary proceedings and understand how it operates.

On the BDF working relationship with the Botswana Police, he described it as being good and said that their assistance to the police is not obvious because the soldiers who go into operation with the police do not wear uniforms as they work around the clock with either the Criminal Investigating Department or the general duty police.

He said presently most of the operations are in Gaborone as crime is higher in the city and suburbs.

He said that statistics in motor vehicle theft and armed robberies over a period of year will reveal that there has been a positive change because of continuous good working relationship between the two services.

Gen. Khama said currently there are no BDF contingents based outside the country since they were withdrawn from Rwanda, Mozambique and Somalia where they played a major role in peace keeping, along with other forces assigned by the United Nations.

United Nations reimbursed them on all expenses that BDF incurred while doing international operations.

Though no troops are based outside the BDF is currently involved with the process of developing the Royal Lesotho Defence Force (RLDF). This process has been on going for the past two years where his officers and others from the neighbouring countries of Zimbabwe and South Africa are advising RLDF on the way forward.

"Even now when I am talking to you, we have RLDF soldiers who are training in Botswana and we expect more to come in July and August", said Lt General Khama.

He also criticised those who say the BDF is given a lot of money in the annual National Budget. "It is wrong, totally wrong perception to say that the BDF gets what it wants. All government departments are required to prepare their estimates and submit them to the Ministry of Finance.

"There has never been a time when we were given what we have asked for, our estimates have always been substantially cut".

He explained that those who say the BDF has been given lots of money need to take a tour of the army barracks because there is terrible shortage of accommodation and a vast amount of the P143 million [pula] which has been allocated to the BDF will go into projects such as building houses.

He said when the BDF was formed it was at a time when the country was under security pressure and needed a significant amount of manpower to deal with the situation. As a result more people were recruited than houses being built, essentially the Army is left with a backlog of such infrastructure to provide.

"The fact is, with the BDF development we had to start from scratch, unlike other countries who inherited significant infrastructure mostly from colonial governments".

He advised critics to take a closer look at the budget and they will realise that the BDF allocation has declined in the last three years.

He warned that you do not prepare an army for war when you are attacked, rather, you always stay prepared. Hence, they will always have to spend early in their preparations.

On the current dispute between Botswana and Namibia over Sedudu Island, he said he still has confidence that both government's will solve the matter amicably.

Both Governments are quite responsible which is why the two countries have not gone to war, but rather opted for peaceful negotiations. When they found that they were unable to resolve the matter on their own, they then referred it to the International Court of Justice for arbitration.

He said this is a very good step, as of late there are some countries, such as Nigeria and Cameroon, Greece and Turkey and Eritrea and Yemen who resorted to military activity over matters that could be resolved by negotiation.

Asked about press coverage of the BDF, he said it differs from one paper to another, as there are those who bother to follow professional ethics and cross check the information, and those who do not, and print matters which are far from the truth.

"I cannot dictate to the press on matters considered to be fair. Whatever they write is in line with their exercising the freedom of the press, which, unfortunately, can be freedom to either inform or misinform."

He concluded by saying that the BDF is open, and will cooperate with those newspapers that want to follow through by cross checking their information before printing it. "Otherwise, I say to those who do not want to follow professional ethics, that they can just go ahead and write what they feel like writing."

Mozambique

Mozambique: Prime Minister Views Upcoming Club of Paris Meeting

MB1104132496 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Report by Antonio Cuna]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Cuna] Our colleague Gabriel Mussavel has just been to Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi's office.

[Mussavel] Yes, that is correct. Prime Minister Mocumbi met with journalists to explain the government's principal concerns this week. First, the government has presented a number of draft laws at the Assembly of the Republic. Principally, however, the government is concerned about its meeting with the Club of Paris Consultative Group next week. Mocumbi said the meeting would take place on 17 and 18 April. Mozambique will ask for about the same amount as last year. The prime minister refused to provide concrete figures, but expectations are that Mozambique will ask for slightly more than \$1 billion for its economic program this year. He said the Mozambican Government is confident about the meeting, adding that the

government has a very clear idea about what it needs in 1996. [passage omitted]

[Cuna] What about last year's (?reimbursements)? What is going on with that situation?

[Mussavel] The prime minister said the country has already effected those reimbursements, although with some delays. Obviously, those delays also had to do with the late delivery of money to Mozambique. As you may remember, the money arrived in Mozambique later than scheduled. Mocumbi believes there are many reasons why the donor community should understand Mozambique's difficult situation. The prime minister also reported a visible growth rate this year, which might also help donors understand our problems. Mocumbi said Mozambique expects a 3 percent growth rate this year, adding that inflation went down by about 15 percent. So, all this information should help Mozambique at next week's meeting with the Club of Paris Consultative Group.

[Cuna] Any idea who the members of the Mozambican delegation to the meeting will be?

[Mussavel] The team will be led by the prime minister and will include Planning and Finance Minister Tomas Salomao, and Deputy Finance Minister Luisa Diogo. It is also expected that Dr. Mocumbi will meet with President Joaquim Chissano to decide on other government officials who will be part of the team going to Paris. [passage omitted]

Mozambique: Further on Upcoming Club of Paris Meeting

MB1204185996 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has given details about preparations for the Paris Consultative Group meeting scheduled to take place next week. Speaking in a news conference in Maputo on 12 April, Planning and Finance Minister Tomas Salomao revealed what the government will ask for \$1 billion for the execution of its 1996 socioeconomic program.

[Salomao] "Regarding imports, about \$735 million. Exports about \$200 million. Loans total about \$280 million. Foreign aid in the form of donations about \$250 million, compared to \$339 million in 1995, \$564 million in 1994, and \$503 million in 1993."

Tomas Salomao said the government will call for a system of cooperation that includes more direct investment than donations. The government expects

to face two issues raised by its partners — namely, government methods and the fight against corruption.

[Salomao] "We will reiterate our commitment to fighting corruption. Recently, the government evaluated ways of creating a higher authority against corruption. Principled decisions have been made, but legislation should be approved. Until then, we will adopt practical ways of dealing with the problem."

The first measure that the government would like to see addressed by the Paris Club is Mozambique's debt and the possibility of easing it. Deputy Finance Minister Luisa Diogo discussed the issue during the news conference.

[Diogo] "Mozambique's foreign debt is a very serious situation. More than 30 percent of the country's budget is committed to our foreign debt. We went to the Paris Club in 1995 [words indistinct] the government has to make a major effort to repay the debt. Under normal conditions and if the Paris Club [words indistinct] it could have been avoided. The situation of our debt is such that we would not be exaggerating if we said two-thirds of the debt should be pardoned."

Mozambique: Dhlakama Says NOTICIAS Interview 'Distorted'

MB1504085196 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese 11 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Dhlakama is happy with the head of state's consultations." That is the title of an interview by Eliseu Bento published in NOTICIAS on 3 April. The Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] president says the newspaper omitted and distorted his remarks to further the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] Party's propaganda.

In the interview, Dhlakama was cited as saying: "I am very pleased and I hope one takes advantage of the situation. I think that is the solution to good governance," when he referred to meetings President Chissano has been holding with various sectors of Mozambican society. The Renamo leader does not contest this passage, but notes that the interviewer seems to have 'forgotten' to transcribe the following: "I am happy because a great many people will see that Frelimo has not changed yet."

The Renamo president says he does not wish to start a controversy with journalists, let alone interfere in their work. He, however, feels that it would be good if complete information is given to prevent the distortion of one's statements, placing them out of context, as was the present case. [passage omitted]

**Mozambique: Dhlakama Says Government
Delaying Creation of Commission**

*MB1504085296 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese
11 Apr 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Afonso Dhlakama, president of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], says he has information that people trained by the police have been sent to Renamo's areas of influence to cause rioting on behalf of the former rebel movement. The intention is to discredit the party and justify the deployment of the Rapid Intervention Police. He added: "Right now, Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] has sent police personnel from Beira to Muanza, Cheringoma, Caia, Macossa, Gorongosa, and Maringue to look for Renamo arms caches," adding that police often simulate the discovery of weapons to blame Renamo. Dhlakama says the operation, led by the police and the State Information and Security Service, has been planned for central and northern Mozambique where, interestingly, Renamo enjoys more support.

Speaking to IMPARCIAL before leaving Maputo for Beira, Dhlakama said he is worried about the slow pace in the creation of a joint commission to dismantle arms caches and collect illegal weapons, at a time when there are renewed reports in Frelimo-controlled news media of alleged movements by armed men in the country. The reports have never been confirmed by independent sources.

Dhlakama says by dragging its feet and depriving such a commission of any meaning, the government shows that it lacks sufficient political goodwill to jointly cooperate in matters of national interest. [passage omitted] He added: "Frelimo is avoiding the issue. It does not want a commission to collect weapons and investigate police attacks on the highways."

Zambia

**Zambia: Daily Reports on CIA Director's Visit to
Nation**

*MB1504112896 Lusaka THE POST in English
15 Apr 96*

[Article from "The Front Page" by Bright Mwape, Chilombo Mwendela and Masautso Phiri: "Stability Tops FTJ, CIA Talks;" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The growing threat to the stability of Zambia may have formed the core of talks between America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and President Chiluba's [FTJ] government last week. Zambia, recently listed among countries most vulnerable to a breakdown of government by the CIA, played host to its director John Deutch. Deutch was in the

country meeting President Chiluba and other senior government officials. Although the trip is said to have been at the invitation of the Zambian Government there are indications it may have been prompted by worrying revelations made by the CIA early this year that governance may collapse in Zambia.

There has been no official government position on why it 'invited' the CIA director and all key spokesmen remained mute over the matter. A senior Zambia Intelligence Security Service (ZISS) official said Deutch's visit was especially for meetings with President Chiluba and not his organization. Chief government spokesman Amusaa Mwanamwambwa excused himself and referred the matter to the U.S. ambassador saying "only America is competent to discuss this," while President Chiluba's spokesman Richard Sakala advised THE POST to go by a ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL (Saturday) [13 April] report which merely announced the presence of Deutch in Zambia.

But some opposition leaders feel government should take the CIA advice seriously. "The whole world is concerned about the stability of this country. It is good that all those who are concerned should prevail over President Chiluba since all the local efforts have failed," said Zambia Democratic Congress General Secretary Derrick Chitala. UNIP [United National Independence Party] president Kenneth Kaunda also said events in the country and the conduct of government justify the CIA concern.

Deutch, who is also a member of the U.S. cabinet, landed in the country last Wednesday [10 April] for talks with government but according to a statement from the American embassy there is a possibility the CIA chief was alerting government on some of the issues in the report. "The director is meeting with President Chiluba and senior government officials to exchange views on a range of important global trends and concerns, to discuss transnational threats to the security of all nations," said a statement, Friday, from U.S. information director Steadman Howard who added that the CIA chief was also "encouraging Zambia's continued support for the international community's efforts to combat these challenges."

Zambia was listed vulnerable together with several other Third World countries, in a detailed analytical report conducted by the CIA into reasons why countries in the world fall apart. The report which was made at the request of the U.S. vice president, Al Gore, last year, is intended to forewarn policy makers in concerned countries ahead of any such crisis. According to the report also quoted in America's US WORLD REPORT, the CIA can now alert governments of the possibility

of a breakdown at least two years before it occurs. The CIA probe team dubbed "State Failure Task Force" used 'sophisticated techniques to identify key factors' that can read the direction of a particular country and predict with close to 100% accuracy, its status within the next few years. The report which was by January in full draft form and leaked to the American press, analyzed 113 cases of state failure which gave the CIA 600 possible contributing factors. The period used to analyze and predict the future is between 1955 and 1994. The CIA has made firm conclusions that poor democracies such as Zambia "are more unstable than either rich democracies or poor non-democracies" and are more likely to breakdown. The CIA has further drawn a solid marriage between economic growth and stability.

Living standards in Zambia are still very low with poverty levels high despite assurances by government that the economy is picking up. The climate in Zambia has also lately slanted towards violent provocations mainly perpetrated along political lines.

Deutch flew out of the country on Friday after a two day series of meetings and a reception in his honor at the residence of the American ambassador.

Zambia: Defense Minister's 'Racist' Remarks Criticized

*MB1504113196 Lusaka THE POST in English
15 Apr 96*

[Report by By Chilombo Mwendela: "Ben Mwila's Racist Remarks Criticized;" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Ben Mwila's remarks on the Copperbelt that Zambia should only be ruled by its black nationals has left some white Zambians uneasy about the status of their citizenship. Ivy Smith, a 31-year-old white Zambian and daughter of a Ngwerere farmer, said she did not understand why the government's differences with donors should bring up the question of color to the country's citizens. "Does this mean that I am a second class citizen in a country I thought of as my home?" asked Ivy in an interview in Lusaka yesterday.

And Mwila's remarks have been described by opposition politicians as "unfortunate". Mwila told the political gatherings in Luanshya that Zambia should be ruled by a black person and those donors who did not like the country's policies should leave. Zambia Democratic Congress President, Dean Mung'omba, urged the cabinet minister to withdraw his statements and apologize to the Zambian citizens regardless of color, creed or tribe. Referring to Mwila's comments that the donor community was interfering in the governance issues,

Mungomba said the government appears to be shifting the blame on 'foreigners'. "Perhaps the government is finding it difficult to govern. This is what happened in Uganda with Idi Amin when he saw the Asians as being to blame for the mistakes he was making," Mung'omba said. "He chased them from Uganda and only to make the economy become worse."

National Party general secretary Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika said the minister was "part of a racist government" and was "only being consistent with the attitude of his government". "They have been racist through the treatment of Dipak Patel and Guy Scott and it is useless to hope that they can realize their mistakes because they are fundamental bigots," Lewanika charged in an interview yesterday, adding: "That is how we were labelled a Christian nation without being consulted."

Government spokesman and Minister of Information Amusaa Mwanamwambwa denied any knowledge of the occasion saying he was away at the time and "did not hear him make the statement".

But Zambia Civic Education Association chairperson, Lucy Sichone, said she had heard the statements on national television and was appalled that a leader in his capacity could utter such remarks. "He is not God to lay down racist laws for posterity," she said.

UNIP [United National Independence Party] Administrative Secretary, Basil Kabwe, said Zambia's production base was nearly gone and the country was now depending on international companies to bring in the much needed foreign exchange. "Such utterances were therefore deplorable and should not be said at all," he said.

Last weekend, religious leaders condemned the statements as "racial, embarrassing, and unfortunate". Reverend Foston Sakala of the Reformed Church of Zambia wondered how a senior government minister could dismiss the donors when a large part of the budget is funded by donor aid.

Zambia: Editorial Blames Government for Defense Minister's Remarks

*MB1504120796 Lusaka THE POST in English
15 Apr 96*

[Editorial: "Opposing View: B.Y. Adhering to Government Policy;" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wholesome condemnation of defense minister Ben Mwila [BY] over his so-called racist remarks made on the Copperbelt last week is not fair. Mwila doesn't need to be harangued as an

individual. He was just articulating the policies of his party and government. There was nothing strange or new in Mwila's remarks. All that he said has been voiced by President Chiluba before. It is also the position put forward by his party and its government in the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

President Chiluba has made it clear that there is no country without discrimination of one sort or another. Mwila is therefore just regurgitating his President's views. And, moreover, Mwila has no mind, or ideas, of his own as far as politics are concerned. Politically Mwila is nothing without President Chiluba. He can only repeat President Chiluba's ideas and policies. The MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] has not hidden its policies on discrimination.

And if a party in government is allowed by the citizens to discriminate against a certain section of its nationals there is no guarantee that this will stop with that category which is politically acceptable at the moment. These are the bells of injustice that may one day toll for the whole country.

Zambia: MMD Loses Parliament Seats to Opposition 'Stronghold'

MB1304160496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1425 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LUSAKA April 13 SAPA-AFP — Zambia's ruling party lost a parliamentary by-election in an opposition stronghold in the east of the country, officials said Saturday.

Bernard Phiri of the opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) won 2,519 votes while James Phiri, of the governing Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD), took 1,380. The election was held Friday in the Mkaika constituency in eastern Zambia.

The ruling party has only one seat in Eastern Province, dominated by the former ruling party of Kenneth Kaunda, which controls 20 seats.

Reports reaching here said that despite a heavy police presence, there was euphoria after the opposition candidate was declared the winner after a campaign marred by violent clashes between the two major parties.

However, the ruling party retained its constituency at Moomba in southern Zambia in a by-election also held Friday.

Zambia: Former President Denies Links to 'Black Mamba' Group

MB1504141796 Lusaka THE POST in English
15 Apr 96

[Report by By Sundie Sinkala: "KK Speaks out on 'Black Mamba'"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNIP [United National Independence Party] president Kenneth Kaunda [KK] has disassociated his party from the "Black Mamba Organization" and accused the MMD [Movement for Multiparty Democracy] government of being behind it. Former president Kaunda said his party had nothing to do with the organization because he and the party stood for peace and would not engage in such activities. In his first reaction to the "Black Mamba" allegations, president Kaunda, in an interview with a Danish journalist Jesper Strudsholm based in Cape Town, South Africa, said at his Kalundu House yesterday that the only people who could do such a thing are his political rivals. "I have nothing to do with 'Black Mamba', I am a non-violent man. I can only assume that my political enemies are the ones doing all this. The MMD government is behind all this," he said. He told Strudsholm, an African correspondent for a Danish newspaper, POLITITIKEN, that he is a man who had always stood for non-violence.

Lately, MMD ministers have allegedly been sent threatening letters by a group calling itself "Black Mamba", warning them that they would be eliminated if they allowed the Constitutional Amendment (Bill) to be passed by MMD-dominated parliament when it sits next month. Defense minister Ben Mwila in Luanshya last week accused UNIP of being the authors of the threatening letters. He warned that government would deal with its leaders.

And Kaunda has accused the current leadership of being corrupt and selfish and failing to live up to people's expectations after ascending to power. He charged that multipartyism was not going to work in Zambia unless the people in leadership were honest in their dealings. Kaunda reiterated his call on breaking the law if the MMD government remained adamant on barring him from contesting the forthcoming presidential elections, adding that there was nothing wrong to advocate civil disobedience. "I am going to organize mass actions marches to defy government, but I will do this non-violently. Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King did this and I will do it," he said.

And regarding his call for the truth commission to probe MMD activities, he said he was ready to have the exercise extended to his tenure of office because there was nothing for him to fear.

Zambia: Chiluba Says Government To Give Importance to Farming Issues

MB1204105096 Lusaka THE POST in English
12 Apr 96

[Report by Reuben Phiri; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government is to give due importance to the improvement of the agricultural sector as part of the revival of Zambia's fortunes, President Frederick Chiluba said Thursday.

Speaking when Danish Development Minister, Poul Nielson, called on him at State House in Lusaka, Mr Chiluba said government was looking at all possibilities which will help give a major boost to the agricultural sector so that the Zambian economy can become agriculture oriented. He observed that the agriculture sector has a major role to play because 90 percent of arable land is suitable for cultivation.

Mr Chiluba expressed hope that the private sector in agriculture under the current free economic policy will also help government raise the industry to higher levels. He noted generally that great progress had been achieved in turning around the economy from the previous socialist-commandist framework to a much free market-driven variety.

He singled out transport and mining as some of the most obvious success stories and that the manufacturing sector still needed a strong base which could see local companies thrive well on their own.

The President acknowledged the Danish government's continued help in Zambia, particularly in the reform programmes. On the new constitution, Mr Chiluba reiterated that this was not aimed at former Republican President Kenneth Kaunda, but at the general future governance of the country. He said the draft constitution has brought up a lot of difficulties and misunderstandings but he was, however, quick to say that the process of consensus gathering on the constitution would still continue so as to give the final document appropriate mandate.

"We will not abandon our course or process of consensus gathering as it is still going on. We will listen to all the people and parliament will make a final say on the constitution," Mr Chiluba added.

He said Zambians have now realised that they should not wait for government to do everything for them, but that they should change their attitudes and rise to the challenges of life and what the society expects of them.

Speaking earlier, Mr Nielson, who is leading a four man delegation to Zambia, said good governance and

protection of human rights is a framework for any democratic nation. He said his delegation has been so happy with Zambians for being so frank and open in their dealings with national issues, as this makes donor countries understand the kind of society they were dealing with.

Mr Nielson observed that the political era in Zambia has been a model in Africa and encouraged Zambians to work hard and achieve their goals so that donors could be guided properly.

Zambia: Economic Grouping Discusses 'Harmful' Impact of World Trade

MB1504144796 Lusaka THE POST in English
15 Apr 96

[Report by Chilombo Mwendela: "Free Market Is Killing Industry;" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa organization (Comesa), has identified the harmful impact of international trade on the Comesa industrial sector. Comesa chairman Bingu Wa Mutharika confirmed at the second session of the intergovernmental committee in Lusaka yesterday that the industrial sector in Comesa has been adversely affected by international trade. "We have been forced to liberalize and open our markets to global trade without protecting our own industries," he said. Mutharika said that in real terms, there had instead been deindustrialisation in varying degrees through the Comesa countries because of Structural Adjustment Programs. He pointed to the visible results of this situation in terms of job losses, mounting unemployment, plant closures, and reduction in domestic production.

Opening the meeting, acting commerce, trade and industry minister Alfeyo Hambayi agreed that Comesa industries were not developed enough to compete on the international market. "During the last 10 years, most of the member states have implemented structural adjustment programs and these have opened us to tough international competition," he said, urging the committee to chart out a workable program for the 1996/7 period. He said that for Comesa's programs to work, they must be incorporated in national plans.

Zambia Association of Manufacturers chairman Anthony Simmonds said last week in an interview that Zambia's manufacturing sector was nearly collapsing under the heavy burden of the tax structure and tough

foreign competitors. "Our national policies do not favor local investors," he said. "Zambian-made products are more expensive than imports because our policies have made it expensive to produce secondary goods here."

Mutharika appealed to the donors to continue supporting Comesa in order to ensure the success of donor-funded

projects. The meeting will concentrate on a five-year plan to cater for manufacturing, increasing agriculture production through advanced use of the watercourse system, development of the transport sector, the designing of new programs to facilitate trade, and developing comprehensive and reliable economic data on Comesa.

Ghana**Ghana: President Rawlings Lauds U.S.-ECOMOG Cooperation in Liberia**

AB1504190396 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], President J.J. Rawlings, has commended America for collaborating with ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] to control the situation in Monrovia. He said this gesture is a welcome development and hoped the U.S. will continue to support efforts to organize medical care and also help to distribute relief items to displaced people. President Rawlings was speaking at the Castle, Osu, when the president of the Together For Peace Foundation, Mrs. (Mary Appiah Fanfany), called on him.

He welcomed Mrs. (Fanfany)'s move to provide food for women and children affected by the conflict and said a task force will be formed to organize the distribution. President Rawlings said there is every hope that the situation in Liberia can be contained if the international community lives up to its pledges. He expressed gratitude to NGO's [nongovernmental organizations] for their help.

Mrs. (Fanfany) also commended President Rawlings for his role in promoting peace in the subregion. He said it is because of Ghana's role that her organization has chosen the country as a distribution point. Mrs. (Fanfany) announced that President Rawlings has been chosen by a United Nations jury for the 1996 Man For Peace award, which is given yearly in recognition of a person's distinguished performance in peacekeeping and world stability.

President Rawlings also held discussions with the leader of the Revolutionary United Front, RUF, of Sierra Leone, Mr. Foday Sankoh, on developments in the country. Mr. Sankoh told newsmen that his organization is not ready to recognize the elected government in Sierra Leone until a meeting, scheduled for the 22d of this month to resolve the issue of peace in the country, comes off.

Liberia**Liberia: British Naval Tanker Arrives To Help With Evacuation**

LD1204203496 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2023 GMT 12 Apr 96

[By Roger Williams, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A British naval tanker arrived off the coast of war-torn Liberia tonight to help evacuate Britons and others escaping from the bloody civil war.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Gold Rover was diverted from a routine voyage during which it was delivering fuel, food and other supplies to British ships and forces around the globe, said the Ministry of Defence [MoD].

Those items could now be made available to help people needing help in Liberia.

"The supplies can be provided to people being brought on board from the port of Monrovia and taken to a place of safety," said an MoD spokesman.

"There is enough to supply others who might need to be accommodated for a time in warehouses in the port perhaps."

The number who would be evacuated by the 11,500-ton ship, one of five similar tankers, had yet to be decided. But it was likely to be "scores rather than hundreds", the spokesman said.

The decision on numbers, timing and destination would be decided in conjunction with the Americans, who had other ships in the area. But the Gold Rover was likely to head for "the nearest place of safety" along the African coast.

The design of the 22-year-old tanker, and the fact that it was a merchant ship operated for the Royal Navy, meant there would be adequate space to take evacuees for what would be "a short sea voyage".

Liberia: AFL Chief of Staff Interviewed From Barracks

AB1304191396 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 13 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is a week since interim government forces in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, tried to arrest Roosevelt Johnson, ousted leader of the Krahn ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson] faction. The result has been days of skirmishing between Krahn supporters of Johnson along with fighters from Krahn groups such as the LPC [Liberian Peace Council] and the AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] and forces of Alhaji Koromah's ULIMO-K and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia]. It has left the city wide open to banditry and looting. NPFL soldiers have been laying siege to the Barclay Training Center barracks, BTC, a Krahn headquarters where hostages are allegedly being held and it is believed that Johnson is being sheltered. Anarchy reigned until last night when a high-level ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] delegation reached a deal with the government and some of the factions for a truce. The ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeeping force was to deploy throughout the city, and the fighting factions agreed to withdraw. From Monrovia Nyenati Allison telexed this report:

The ECOMOG peacekeeping force began deploying troops around the diplomatic enclave of Mamba Point following an agreement between the faction leaders to withdraw their fighters from the city. The ECOMOG chief of staff, Gabriel Anyankpele, said that troops will take control of the airport in the eastern suburb of Sinkor once they had consolidated their hold on the main city center. In apparent compliance with the agreement, hundreds of NPFL fighters have been pulling out of the Mamba Point area in scores of relief vehicles commandeered during an attack on UN offices two days ago. However, a spokesman for Charles Taylor, Reginald Goodrich, told reporters last night that the NPFL would not end the siege of the Barclay Training Center, BTC Barracks, unless ousted ULIMO leader Roosevelt Johnson gives himself up.

Meanwhile, the fighting has left its mark on the city. Everywhere I went today, the streets were littered with empty bullet shells and broken glass from windscreens smashed during the frenzy of looting, which has left most homes and offices in the area ransacked. Battered corpses too lay along the road leading towards Monrovia's main shopping district, and small arms fire still crackled around the foot of Mamba Point Hill throughout the afternoon as fighters broke into the last remaining vehicles in the area. The NPFL leader, Charles Taylor, is reported to have sent an order to his commanders ordering all looting to stop. Two NPFL fighters who

were later caught breaking into a warehouse have been executed.

Meanwhile, residents of Bushrod Island have set up vigilante groups to prevent further harassment and looting by factional fighters roaming the area. Apparently, the vigilantes have already succeeded in driving many of the fighters away from the area.

A telexed report from Nyenati Allison in Monrovia. Well, we managed to get through to the Barclay Training Center, and talked to the Armed Forces of Liberia chief of staff, General Philip Kamah. Tom Porteous asked him what was going on at the BTC today:

[Begin recording] [Kamah] Today, from 7 o'clock this morning up to this speaking, I am still under heavy burden of fire — demolition or RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] rounds, mortar, etc. — they are shelling BTC. From this morning up to this speaking, I think I have lost about 46 human beings, almost 113 patients, you know, the wounded people, at the clinic. There is no drugs, no water, no food. I think about five died this morning by cholera. And, I am appealing to the international community to come to our aid. If not, every one of us that are here will die for nothing.

[Porteous] Has there been any contact between you in the Barclay Training Center and the delegation from ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], which is in Monrovia at the moment?

[Kamah] Yes, there is some contact — telephone conversation — between them and myself.

[Porteous] And what did they say?

[Kamah] Well, I told them the happening on the ground, and they are saying that they are unable to reach because they are not safe. So we that are on this side, our own lives do not mean anything. We are animals that live so. So they are about the only people that are good lives. [sentence as heard] Just a while ago, another rocket has landed — killed two additional people.

[Porteous] Is there any sign of ECOMOG coming up to the Barclay Training Center to take up position there?

[Kamah] ECOMOG, they are here, but they are not doing whatsoever they are supposed to have done, because they are not getting the mandate from the field commander and the team that came. Just a while ago, the Guinean ECOMOG, the contingent from Guinea, they are helping ULIMO-K, NPFL rebels with two mohawks shelling us. They have been shelling us from this morning up to now. And I have got all the proof.

[Porteous] So you are saying that ECOMOG is now attacking and they have joined the NPFL and ULIMO in attacking the Barclay Training Center?

[Kamah] That is correct. And I am still persisting that the Guinean ECOMOG are taking sides with the rebels.

[Porteous] What about these hostages that you have in the BTC? What condition are they in?

[Kamah] Oh, there is nobody here that I hold hostage. I can even call one of the eminent known men, the foreign nationals that are here, I can call one of them on to talk to you. I have never held anybody hostage. Everybody came here with their own willingness because BTC or Monrovia as a whole was declared as a safe haven by the ECOMOG field commander, and because we have ECOMOG and this is a nearer area manned by ECOMOG, that is how all these people came. I never brought anybody here. So if somebody tells say I hold anybody hostage, it is not true. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Meanwhile, it seems some VIP's have been seeking shelter at the ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group] base at Bushrod Island. Our reporter, Jonathan Peyley, has just been down there. Tom Porteous asked him what he'd seen.

[Begin recording] [Peyley] I saw so many government officials — present and former officials — taking refuge and among them is Dr. Amos Sawyer, former president, and also Mr. Woewiyu, Sam Dokhie, and Loveli Supuwood, three of whom broke away from the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] two years ago. I also saw the speaker of the House of Parliament, Mr. Morris Dukuly, and former Finance Minister Wilson Tarpeh. They are all there and I'm told they tried to seek safety at the U.S. Embassy, but they were refused and the only alternative they had was to go to ECOMOG headquarters for safety.

[Porteous] And what are they asking from ECOMOG?

[Peyley] Well, I think they mainly want security protection. They want their safety to be assured by the peacekeepers because some of them broke away from the factions that are fighting in Monrovia now and are saying they went there because if they remain home to be caught by the boys at the frontline the result will be very different. And also State Council Chairman Wilton Sankawolo is also there along with 90-year-old paramount chief Tamba Taylor, who is also on the Council of State.

[Porteous] And are they asking to be airlifted out of the country?

[Peyley] Some of them, I'm told, especially Mr. Samuel Dokhie, Tom Woewiyu, and Supuwood wanted to be airlifted by the U.S. Embassy but they were refused and so they were left with the only alternative of going to ECOMOG Headquarters. But ECOMOG cannot help with the airlifting anyway. [end recording]

Liberia: Sniper Fire Reported; Krahns Calling for ECOMOG Deployment

*AB1504160896 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Krahns wing of ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia], led by Roosevelt Johnson, is calling for ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] troops to be deployed throughout the Liberian capital but nine days after fighting broke out between the Krahns and the forces of the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] and the ULIMO-K, Johnson himself is still at large. A cease-fire, brokered by ECOWAS and ECOMOG, is supposed to be in force but hasn't taken hold and yesterday the Barclay Training Center Barracks, where Johnson was believed to be hiding, came under shell fire. Our Monrovia correspondent, Nii Nartey Allison, telexed this report on what has been happening today:

Sniper fire erupted in downtown Monrovia this afternoon, sending inhabitants running for cover and leaving behind food which they had bought to alleviate days of hunger. Those civilians, who are attempting to search for food and water, had to flee back into their hideout when the sniper fire smashed into nearby walls. A group of journalists, including me, had to flee to avoid being caught in the cross-fire.

African peacekeeping troops, deployed in the city center, said it was still dangerous for civilians to walk the streets. They also said that the continuous shooting was still preventing the deployment of troops around the besieged Barclay Training Center Barracks because NPFL and ULIMO militia were still encircling the center.

Armed factions have been roaming the streets of the capital despite promises of withdrawal by their leaders. Massive looting resumed late yesterday in the Mamba Point area as ECOMOG troops stood watch. The troops themselves did not take part in the stealing but did nothing to stop the looting spree which has left the city completely vandalized.

Yesterday, a young Egyptian girl was abducted after militiamen entered the Egyptian Embassy and ransacked the building. It's still not clear which of the factions

carried the attack on the embassy which is deep inside areas controlled by the NPFL and the ULIMO troops.

Liberia: BTC Krahn Fighters Not Surrendering

AB1604085296 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 16 Apr 96

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Max Jarret]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The siege of the Barclay Training Center [BTC] barracks in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, continues this morning with no immediate end in sight. The (?fighting) is between ethnic Krahn fighters loyal to the militia leader Roosevelt Johnson, who are in the barracks, and the forces of faction leaders Charles Taylor and Alhaji Koromah. They have agreed to stop attacking the barracks, and ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeepers have deployed in the area but the pro-Johnson fighters in the BTC are refusing to surrender. Thousands of civilians are also in the barracks with little food or water and there are reports of deaths due to starvation. On the line to Monrovia last night, I asked our reporter Nyenati Allison if he had any details of the situation within the Barclay Training Center:

[Begin recording] [Allison] The situation there is worsening by the day. Monday, people have started dying on the average of 10 persons a day, because there is no safe drinking water and cholera has set in in the area and besides, there is no food. There has not been food for the past one week in the barracks and people are not able to come out or go in. I have been speaking by way of telephone to people at the barracks and fellow reporters that are there have been reporting these deaths, quoting aid relief workers including medical workers.

[Jarret] Is there no chance that this could be propaganda?

[Allison] No, I do not think so because these are fellows who can be trusted and as I speak to you now, there is a guy in there who called me just before the phone rang and he confirmed the deaths.

[Jarret] Did this journalist who is inside the BTC tell you anything about the military situation in the camp? Do they have many arms or are they running out of ammunition?

[Allison] He observed that the military men in the barracks are running out of ammunition and so as a result, they are not as trigger happy as they were from the onset of the fight. He also said that the (?beach) that he has been reporting around the barracks is just half way and I believe him because just this afternoon

some people sneaked out of the barracks and came to the Mamba Point area and launched an attack. But there is an opening there, people can leave the barracks by way of the beach and go in and out, but since NPFL [National Patriotic front of Liberia] and ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] forces have been laying the siege around the barracks, it has been difficult for civilians to go in and out, except armed men who have been sneaking out by way of the beach.

[Jarret] Has there been any fighting on the beach?

[Allison] Yes, Monday there was fighting on the beach. The fighting surfaced as far as the foreign ministry at the foot of the Mamba Point hill where so many displaced people and residents had to flee as the fighting intensified, but the fighting was brief as NPFL troops around here chased out the attackers.

[Jarret] Now, there have been some reports that Johnson's forces are getting reinforcements from the interior of Liberia. Do you know anything about that?

[Allison] I tried to check that out with the African peacekeeping force because, you know, the peacekeeping force is in charge of some parts of the interior. They are positioned on roads that link the capital to parts of the interior and I was told by the chief of staff of ECOMOG that the peacekeeping force that was supposed to withdraw troops from the [words indistinct] of Greenville and brought them back to Buchanan so that they can be in a position to prevent any rebel incursion towards the capital. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: UN Team Meets With Imprisoned Opposition Leader Abiola

AB1204180096 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 12 Apr 96

[From the "African News"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Nations team, investigating alleged human rights abuses in Nigeria, has met the detained opposition leader, Moshood Abiola, and discussed with him the terms he would be willing to accept for his release. A BBC correspondent in Lagos says the UN team gave no details, except to say Chief Abiola had indicated he would be very happy to be freed.

Nigeria: Abacha Lauds UN Fact-Finding Mission at Conclusion of Visit

AB1204181296 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1500 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Government has urged members of the United Nations fact-finding

mission to assist in bridging the communication gap between Nigeria and the international community in order to minimize the state of misinformation and distortion being part of it. The head of state, General Sani Abacha, made the appeal in Abuja when he received the four-man fact-finding team who paid him a visit. He expressed the hope that their visit to Nigeria had helped them to get an informed view of the situation in the country. Gen. Abacha urged the international community to appreciate the efforts of the present administration to solve the country's socioeconomic problems. He said that Nigeria was an open society with a politically conscious public, a vibrant press and guaranteed freedom of speech.

The head of state expressed gratitude to the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali, for his personal understanding and appreciation of the government's efforts to install democracy in the country.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Justice Atsu Koffi Amegah, said the mission had visited different parts of the country to see things for themselves as well as listen, and discussed freely with people. He said Nigeria had a very active press which exercised a lot of freedom.

Nigeria: Visiting UN Team Says Human Rights Situation 'Terrible'

*AB1204190796 Paris AFP in English
1826 GMT 12 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, April 12 (AFP) — The human rights situation in Nigeria is "terrible," a UN fact-finding team said Friday after a two-week visit.

"The problems of human rights in Nigeria are terrible and political problems are terrifying," delegation leader Atsu Koffi Amegah told a press conference.

Amegah said however that he was satisfied that the Nigerian authorities had allowed the team to complete their mission, which included a three-day stay in Ogoniland, the homeland of nine minority rights activists who were executed in November.

The team had been tasked by the UN secretary-general to probe the executions of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogonis, as well as to review the military junta's three-year plan to transfer power to a democratically elected government.

Nigeria: Radio Says UN Team Misquoted on Human Rights Situation

*AB1404145796 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Nations fact-finding mission to Nigeria has refuted newspaper reports credited to it that it had described the human rights situation in the country as 'terrible' and its political problem, 'terrifying.' The leader of the team, Mr. Justice Atsu Koffi Amegah, made the clarification in Lagos while addressing newsmen at the end of the mission's assignment.

He explained that the misquotation could have arisen from the literary translation given to the use of the word 'terrible' in French which, he said, meant 'serious.' Mr. Justice Amegah stated that he only said that the human rights and democratization process were serious matters and very important issues to the international community.

The leader of the delegation said the mission had no mandate to pass judgment on the Nigerian situation but it could only gather information and submit it to the United Nations. He said that the mission appreciated the task before the government to ensure a successful implementation of its transition program.

Mr. Justice Amegah praised the Federal Government for giving the mission full cooperation during its stay in the country.

Nigeria: Ghanaian Envoy Said Satisfied With Efforts Toward Democracy

*AB1504135196 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Ghanaian high commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. John Tettegah, has expressed optimism in the current efforts of the federal government to return the country to democracy. He was speaking in Calabar during a courtesy visit to the Cross Rivers State administrator, Group Captain Gregory Agboneni. Okonkwo Ekpenyong was there:

[Begin Okpenyong recording] Mr. Tettegah said that with the successful completion of the local government elections and the (?determination) of the federal government towards the transition program, Nigeria's political problems will soon be solved. The Ghanaian high commissioner called on African countries to (?work) as a team and assist each other in areas of need. He said that it was by so doing that African countries could achieve greater heights in various fields of endeavor. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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